

Camp near Murfreesboro,
Feb. 28th

Brother Marshal,

I will commence a letter to you this eve but will not promise when I will finish it. I sent one to you a day or 2 ago I mailed one to Mattie this eve I did not do anything today Ron Cowohen and I went to town this evening I went to get some bread I did not intend buying anymore but I can't go the crackers yet. We have to get an order from the Lieut before we can get it we then pay 10 cts a loaf I got 3 loaves we found a loaf on the street that had fallen off the wagon we picked it up each took half of it and eat it ^{first} imagine a boy about my size going through Youngstown with half a loaf of bread ^{My} first eating like I had not had anything for a week and thinking it was first rate to it tasted as good to me as some of Aunts good ^{up} would at home we soldiers are not very particular how we act in town would ^{first} as leave be seen eating half a loaf of bread as it has been raining this afternoon and looks like it would rain for a month. This is one thing this climate is good for but when it does rain it is very pleasant I got a Nashville paper this eve for 25 cts. Murfreesboro is a larger place than I thought it was the first time I saw it. I saw some nice looking ladies this eve but I expect they were traitors they looked down spirited no doubt they ^{had}

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^{Friends} in the rebel army. I saw Rosecrans head quarters it is ^{in a} large brick building. It is bed time good night. - Sabbath 11 oclock I ^{at 7 oclock} told you what I have been doing this morning got up at 7 washed myself had breakfast read a while in the testament & then read a sermon it was in the United Presbyterian Dave had it, he is on picket to day. Detail the pickets now out of different Regts always before the Regt went out together. I like that way a good deal the best than we were always with our own boys I don't know what the idea ^{is} in changeing the plan of operation they are just taking off the camp guard. It is to hard on the boys to do so much duty and when there is no use in camp guard here it rained hard last night but is clear today. Wouldn't I like to have Mr. ^{Thorn} here to day to preach one of his good sermons I don't think there would be any danger of me going to sleep the boys say they have not heard a sermon for six months you can't tell any diference between Sabbath and any other day just as much duty done we drew 5 days rations this morning the mail is in wonder if I will be lucky will go and see. Well I got 2 letters one of them were fro F.H Shields he said I had written him 2 letters I was not aware that I had written him more than one but cousin there was a short time after I came here that I couldn't mince anything I couldn't mince hardly anything I had written an for afterwards I ^{was} very lonesome but I am all right now. I suppose it is about intermission at the Free church now but I expect it is not as pleasant weather there today as it is here the sun is warm and the birds are singing and everything looks cheerful a person can't help enjoying them selves a day like this I am going to write a

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a letter to Cousin Josy Johnson. Monday evening 7 oclock I will give you an account of todays proceedings, had breakfast about the first thing after I got up then we cleaned up the streets and parade ground after we got that done we had squad drill of an hour then dinner which consisted of sasafra tea ? and ^{Then} Charlie Jacobs and I got a pass and went over to the 105 saw Jim ? John Stewart and Simon McCall they were well I told Jim he owed you a letter he said he was going to answer it he has been promoted orderly a good lift for him the rise promoted over 2 other sergeants got home ^{first} in time for roll call we had dress parade at 5 there was more orders read than you

could shake a stick at they are going to be very strict going to put on regular camp guard drill 4 hours per day it made the boys mad for they have so much duty to do besides standing guard and then the old recruit are tired drilling so much have to stand in line of battle from 1/2 past 4 until sunrise 1/2 hour earlier the last week but the Major don't care he lies in bed until his breakfast is ready it will keep us on the go all the time but I care not for the work as long as I am blessed with good health I am very well now commenced doing duty again this morning we get 2 mails yesterday I got 2 letters every time the last one I got ^{1st} from sweet home and one from Anna ^{1st} Goulden. This has been another splendid day I will tell you what we are all doing Ron is visiting Jim ^{1st} is sleeping Pat Stewart ^{1st} hunting for body guards they are one thing we can't keep entirely rid of Tom is sitting by the fire Giles is lying down the rest are out and I am writing to the best cousin I have. We drew fresh beef today about enough for 2 meals that is one thing I like good night. Tuesday noon March 3rd Well here I am writing again I tell you I like to write ^{home} and to Uncle Johns I enjoy myself ^{1st} right. When I am at that this morning we had ^{1st} half past 4 stood in line of battle until sun up then had breakfast then cleaned up streets and parade ground each div. Cleaned parade ground opposite their own quarters after we get through that had ^{1st} Drill from 9 until 11 then came in and had dinner which consisted of bean soup hard tack and tea after dinner roll call that made up our forenoon work it will be division drill before long 2 hours it is quite cool today and looks like rain the boys are wishing it would then that will stop drill there was a forage train came in last night 700 wagons all loaded with corn they were out 2 days there were 3 out of Co B with it they brought in one hog one ham and several chickens but the fun of it is there didn't any of them happen to be out of our mess so we don't get any the train was out 23 miles they don't trust any ^{1st} here is always 2 detailed to go with each wagon to help load, that is not very hard work they always get riding it is snowing it looks a little like winter Jim B and Ron ^{1st} are both sick today I think they are taking the yellow Jaundice you remember ^{1st} lively you saw him at Youngstown he has not been well ever since we came here he drank so much while we were at Columbus that he made himself sick and he can't get it here, he don't do any duty in my opinion he will never amount to anything as a soldier Our men took 20 gurrellas yesterday they intended destroying a bridge on Stone river but got tripped up on that the gurrilles are just swarming round here there is always a brigade of infantry and a battery goes with a forage train the boys would rather do anything about it but I think I will be on hands is cold and I must go and warm them.

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[Lin naging, stamen no ad written lines]

Top of 1st page; Give my love to Grand Father and the family tell Uncle if he don't soon write to me I will write to him, Jim. My health is ^{1st} very good.

Marshall I don't like the idea of sending my letters ^{1st} but I intended to get stamps at Nashville but the morning we left there we left before daylight and I could not get them and you know that there are some that I can't send without prepaying them so you will excuse me

Your true Cousin

JW Johnson we have just come in off dress parade